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CAPE GAZETTE

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Replenishment project pours sand on Rehoboth Beach

By Jim Cresson

Cape Gazette staff

An estimated 22,000 cubic yards of sand are now being pumped onto Rehoboth Beach each day, and work between Grenoble Place and Rehoboth Avenue should be completed within the next 10 days.

The first sand came spewing onto the beach at Grenoble Place late Sunday, June 5. And pumping began at Rehoboth Avenue late Wednesday, June 8. Beach building is moving south from Grenoble Place and north from Rehoboth Avenue. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co. job superintendent Lynn Nietfeld said the two efforts should meet somewhere near Olive Avenue. The sand pipe at Rehoboth Avenue will then be removed.

Nietfeld said pumping would begin in front of Star of the Sea Condominiums near Laurel Street about June 22 and pump north to Rehoboth Avenue, then south to Prospect Street with a completion prior to the end of June. Both dredge boats will be working at the Laurel Street site.

“We’re making 12 trips a day from the borrow site to the beach, six trips by each dredge boat,” said Nietfeld. “That brings from 20,000 to 24,000 cubic yards of new sand to the beach every 24 hours.”

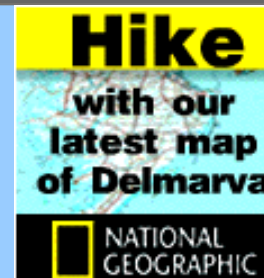
“The dune work will end at Stockley Street,” said Tony Pratt, state project manager. “Building the taper down to Prospect Street will be the last part of the job.”

Pratt said Great Lakes has financial incentives to finish on time, and that barring major equipment failure, he expects the company to finish on schedule.

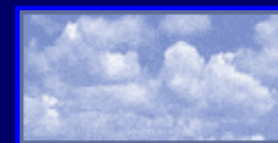
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eternal vigilance.*



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“The profit motivation is a higher level than just the state and city saying they should get it done fast,” said Pratt.

Milton landscaper Frank Stiles will construct hard-surfaced, southward angling dune crossovers at each street end, completing that project by the end of July, Pratt said.

Stiles will work only during regular weekday hours. Beach grass will be planted on the dunes in December, and should have a good root system by next summer, Pratt said.

“We’ve had five days of pumping in Rehoboth Beach, and I think we’re getting into the groove,” said Pratt. “People are gathering on the Boardwalk to watch the work.”

“It’s obviously a disruption to some people,” said Rehoboth Beach Mayor Sam Cooper. “But it seems to be rolling right along.”

“I’ve had no complaints at all,” said Rehoboth Beach City Manager Greg Ferrese. “Great Lakes is a great company to work with.”

“I’ve had no complaints, just questions about when the work site would be at certain locations,” said Carol Everhart, executive director of Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Dewey Beach Mayor Pat Wright said June 8 that she heard her first complaint with the newly replenished beach in that resort. “A few people said the beach is too wide now and they have to walk too far over hot sand to get to the water,” said Wright. “I didn’t quite know what to say to that. We love the wide beach.”

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